

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printer having a function to control quality of an output image, comprising:

 output means for outputting a first test pattern for automatic measurement of image quality and a second test pattern for visual evaluation;

 measuring means for automatically measuring the image quality of said first test pattern for the automatic measurement of the image quality;

 determining means for determining the image quality from image quality data obtained through said automatic measurement by means of said measuring means to obtain determination results;

 inputting means for inputting evaluation results of the visual evaluation of said second test pattern for the visual evaluation;

 storage means for storing said image quality data obtained through said automatic measurement, said determination results and said evaluation results of said visual evaluation; and

 display means for displaying said stored image quality data, said determination results, said evaluation results of the visual evaluation and history thereof.

2. The printer according to claim 1, wherein said first test pattern for the automatic measurement of the image quality pertains to at least one of density, format and sharpness.

3. The printer according to claim 1, wherein said second test pattern for the visual evaluation is at least one of an SMPTE pattern and a standard clinical image.

4. The printer according to claim 1, wherein said printer outputs said first test pattern for the automatic measurement of the image quality and said second test pattern for the visual evaluation on a single sheet.

5. The printer according to claim 1, wherein said printer is a medical printer that outputs a transmitting monochrome film.

6. A method for controlling quality of printing density in a printer, comprising the steps of:

 outputting a test pattern for density measurement from said printer;

 measuring first and second density values of said test pattern for the density measurement on a built-in

densitometer built into said printer and an external densitometer calibrated using a reference density sample whose density values have been measured with a densitometer calibrated in accordance with national standards;

generating a calibration table for calibrating said first density values in said built-in densitometer based on a difference between said first and second density values obtained through said measuring step;

storing said calibration table within said printer;
and

performing quality control of the printing density in the printer based on third density values obtained by calibrating said first density values in said built-in densitometer with said calibration table.

7. A system for controlling quality of printing density in a printer, comprising:

a reference density sample whose density values have been measured with a densitometer calibrated in accordance with national standards;

an external densitometer calibrated using said reference density sample; and

the printer, including:

test pattern output means for outputting a test

pattern for density measurement;

a built-in densitometer for measuring first density values of said test pattern for the density measurement;

input means for inputting second density values of said test pattern for the density measurement obtained by measuring on said external densitometer;

calibration table generation means for generating a calibration table for calibrating said first density values in said built-in densitometer based on said input second density values of said test pattern for the density measurement obtained by measuring on said external densitometer and said first density values of said test pattern for the density measurement obtained by measuring on said built-in densitometer; and

storage means for storing said generated calibration table;

wherein said system calibrates the first density value in said built-in densitometer by said stored calibration table.

8. The system for controlling the quality of the printing density in the printer according to claim 7, wherein said printer further comprises at least one of

storage means for storing quality control information and display means for displaying the quality control information.